

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 8 and 17 are canceled. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 20 are allowed. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 20 are allowed.

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116, since no new claims or issues are raised herein and the only claim amendment incorporates into rejected claim 11 subject matter from claim 1, indicated as allowed, in order to expedite prosecution.

It is noted that Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 11-16, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by US 6,526,056 to Rekter.

Although Applicants do not agree with the rejection of record, in an effort to expedite prosecution and as best understood, the above claim amendment to claim 11 is believed to render this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-20, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136.

Application No. 10/642,197
Attorney Docket: MA-581-US (MAT.023)

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via EFS this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 to Examiner J. Walsh on March 31, 2010.



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